

The Eleventh Annual
Carbondale Saint David's Day Dinner

Saturday, March 1, 2014

The dinner this year will take place in conjunction with the 104th Annual Banquet of the Saint David's Society of Lackawanna County



Saturday Evening, March 1, 2014, Genetti Manor, Dickson City, PA
Cash Bar & Gathering: 5:00 P.M.; Dinner: 6:00 P. M.

\$25 per person.

All are invited to attend. You need not be of Welsh descent.

Reservations: Phone Joe Pascoe at 570-282-4234
Mail your check to Joe Pascoe at 36 Hospital Street, Carbondale, PA 18407

Deadline for reservations: February 20th

Dinner will be served "Family Style" with Leek Soup, Salad, Roast Beef, Roast Turkey w/Stuffing, Baked Haddock, and more. . .

Musical Entertainment: "Gospelaire" from Clarks Green United Methodist Church and the St. David's Male Chorus, Mrs. Fran Justin, Director

Special Feature of this year's after-dinner program: Dr. S. Robert Powell of Carbondale will be presented the 2014 President's Award, for his continuing efforts to record and preserve the Welsh heritage of northeastern Pennsylvania.

**ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY
OF
LACKAWANNA COUNTY**



Celebration

**Saturday, March 1, 2014
Genetti Manor
Dickson City, Pennsylvania**

Cymru Am Byth

PROGRAM

Introduction – James T. Arscott, D.O., President

Pledge of Allegiance

Welsh National Anthem – Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau – Susan Drake

Accompanist – John Decker

National Anthem of the United States – Star Spangled Banner

Accompanist – John Decker

Invocation – Rev. Arthur W. Davis, Asbury United Methodist Church

Dinner

Welcome

James T. Arscott, D.O., President

Recognition

S. Robert Powell, Ph.D.

Toastmaster

Rev. Arthur W. Davis, Asbury United Methodist Church

Musical Program

St. David's Male Chorus and The Clarks Green Gospelaires

“Gymanfa Ganu” Hymn Sing

Dismissal

Benediction – Rev. Arthur W. Davis, Asbury United Methodist Church

Nos Da

SAINT DAVID'S SOCIETY OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT



S. Robert Powell; Ph.D.

Through his father, S. Robert Powell descends from the Welsh bard Athenydd (James W. Reese) and Frances Davies, of 141 South Fillmore Avenue, Hyde Park, Scranton, both of whom were charter members of the Tabernacle Congregational Church there. In 2004, Robert and two of his colleagues in the Carbondale Historical Society, Joseph Pascoe and Barbara Campbell, decided to organize and host an annual Saint David's Day dinner in Carbondale. Every year since then, these highly successful Welsh Heritage Evenings, which always take place on Saint David's Day, have been held. Over the years, in addition, the Carbondale Historical Society has hosted visits by several choirs from Wales to the City of Carbondale where, in the early 1830s, ninety Welsh families settled, at the request of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, giving the City of Carbondale very clear and profound Welsh roots.

In 1974, Robert was awarded a Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. By profession, Robert is a teacher, now retired, having taught Romance Languages and Literature and the Humanities at Penn State University, the State University of New York, Brooklyn College, and Susquehanna University. He is the author of numerous books and more than 200 articles on local history, animal husbandry, comparative aesthetics, gastronomy, landscape gardening, language, and literature. He is currently writing a series of books on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad, which became operational between Carbondale and Honesdale on October 9, 1829. For over 35 years he has served as the president of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Dr. Powell and the Carbondale Historical Society for their dedication to continue to foster the rich Welsh culture, heritage, language and traditions within the multicultural fabric of Lackawanna County Northeastern Pennsylvania.





Genelli
MANOR
BANQUET & CONVENTION CENT















**The Saint David's Society
Of Lackawanna County
President's Award**

Presented To

Dr. S. Robert Powell

**In Recognition For Outstanding
Contribution, Dedication, And
Preservation Of Welsh Heritage
In Northeastern Pennsylvania**

March 1, 2014









PROCLAMATION NUMBER 2014 – 1

WHEREAS, Welsh men and women came into this valley in Northeastern Pennsylvania from the farms, industrial areas, and mountains of Wales, beginning in the second decade of the nineteenth century to establish their homes and new lives; and

WHEREAS, the Welsh who came here helped construct the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale, then worked in the company's anthracite mines and on the company's rail line in the region; and

WHEREAS, these Welsh men and women, pioneers in the fullest sense of the word, were God-fearing folks and within a decade of their arrival, established several houses of worship; and

WHEREAS, the Welsh belief that the family and the church play a key role in community life, together with the energy, industry, ambition, desire to succeed, and capacity for hard work, these Welsh pioneers played a key role in the transformation of our area into a thriving industrial region; and

WHEREAS, those worthy Welsh men and women bestowed upon us a sense of community and a rich heritage, which the Lackawanna County Saint David's Society commemorates and celebrate today – on this monumental 104TH Annual Dinner; and

WHEREAS, Dr. S. Robert Powell of the Carbondale Historical Society and D&H Transportation Museum is being honored this evening for his dedication to preserving our great Welsh history and traditions for generations

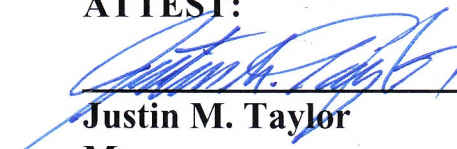
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Justin M. Taylor, Mayor of the City of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, do hereby acknowledge those assembled here, especially our honoree, on this celebration of Lackawanna County's Welsh heritage. In addition, I do hereby proclaim ***Saturday, March 1, 2014*** as

DR. S. ROBERT POWELL DAY

and ask that all citizens recognize and honor this day, and this gentleman, for years to come – as our forefathers would want & expect from us.



ATTEST:


Justin M. Taylor
Mayor









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SAINT DAVID'S SOCIETY
OF LA









SRP + the President's
Award

Name dropper

Got a name to drop? We're looking for news and notes about local people. Send info to The Times-Tribune YES! Desk at yesdesk@timeshamrock.com

St. David's banquet a night of harmony

"The country of Wales, known as the 'Land of Song,' and its choral tradition played a large part of the St. David's Society of Lackawanna County's 104th annual banquet," **Brian Kaeb** reports. "From up and down the valley, more than 160 Welsh people as well as those who were Welsh for the evening attended the St. David's Day, March 1, event at Genetti's banquet facility in Dickson City. The St. David's Day event was a joint celebration of the (St. David's) society and the Carbondale Historical Society."

The event began with First Vice President **Mick Hill**, a native of Wales, leading the Welsh national anthem, "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" and "Star Spangled Banner." The society and guests also joined together for the resounding hymn of "Cwm Rhonda," the very embodiment of the Welsh love of homeland and of culture.

In keeping with the Carbondale St. David's Day tradition, the St. David's Male Chorus, named for the patron saint of Wales, directed by **Fran Justin** and accompanist **Gene Hopkins**, provided entertainment for the evening with the singing of favorite Welsh hymns and songs from Broadway musicals. The chorus serenaded **Dr. S. Robert Powell** with his favorite song, "We'll Keep a Welcome in the Hillside" (1940) by composer **Mai Jones** (1899-1960).

Also included in the program for the evening were the Gospelaires from Clarks Green United Methodist Church, under the direction and accompaniment of **Mary Montoro**. The group played many familiar Gospel



Participants and dignitaries at the St. David's Society/Carbondale Historical Society St. David's Day celebration at Genetti's in Dickson City. In front, from left: Kim Courtright, Dorothy Hill and Dr. Karen Arscott. Second Row: Dr. S. Robert Powell, the Rev. Arthur Davis, Scranton Mayor Bill Courtright, Mick Hill, Dr. James T. Arscott and Lackawanna County Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley.



Representatives of Lackawanna County ethnic groups attending the St. David's Society/Carbondale Historical Society St. David's Day celebration, include, from left: Rick Sabato, Patrick Cummings, Ed Karpvoich, Dr. James T. Arscott, Mick Hill, Joseph Albert and Mark McDade.

songs to round out the evening of musical enjoyment.

The evening concluded with a Gymanfa Ganu Welsh hymn sing, a tradition that can be traced back to the 12th century in Wales, directed by **Dr. James T. Arscott**, society president, and accompanied by **John Decker**.

Invocation and benediction were offered by the **Rev. Arthur W. Davis** of Asbury United Methodist Church, who also served as the evening's toastmaster. "As always, **Rev. Davis** came with a large offering of funny stories and humor, which were a delight to the attendees," **Brian** noted.

Along with **Brian**, soci-

ety past presidents recognized included Charles Browning, Bob Davis, Charles Deveeaux, Dave Jones, Ev Jones and Warren Watkins.

Proclamations

Dr. Arscott presented **Dr. Powell**, president of the Carbondale Historical Society, with the society's President's Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution, dedication and preservation of Welsh heritage in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Carbondale **Mayor Justin Taylor** recognized "the enormous wealth of knowledge and dedication that **Dr. Powell** has for the preservation of the history of the

city and the Welsh immigration to Northeast Pennsylvania in the early 1830s to help establish the railroads and anthracite mining and proclaimed March 1, 2014, as **Dr. S. Robert Powell Day** in Carbondale," **Brian** reports.

A proclamation from Harrisburg to the society in recognition of the special day that has been celebrated by Welshmen in America since 1729 was read by state **Sen. John Blake**.

High notes

Other officers of the St. David's Society include **Gregory Evans**, second vice president; **Linda Griffiths**, secretary; and

Susan Davis, treasurer. Officers and representatives of other Lackawanna County ethnic associations in attendance at the banquet included Friendly Sons of St. Patrick President **Patrick Cummings** and wife, **Margy**; Friends of Poland of Lackawanna County President **Ed Karpovich**; **Joseph Albert**, B'nai B'rith; Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County President **Richard Sabato** and wife, **Sandra**; and **Mark** and **Michele McDade**, UNICO Dunmore. Also joining in were Scranton Mayor **Bill Courtright** and wife, **Kim**; **Dr. Karen Arscott** and **Dorothy Hill**.

— **TERRY BONIFANTI**

CARBONDALE

PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Dr. S. Robert Powell was recently named the recipient of the St. David's Society of Lackawanna County President's Award. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Powell receives prestigious honor

By Barbara Grace
Correspondent

Local historian and author Dr. S. Robert Powell was presented with the President's Award at the St. David's Day dinner that was co-hosted by the St. David's Society of Lackawanna County and the Carbondale St. David's Day committee at Genetti Manor on March 1.

This prestigious award was presented to Dr. Powell by Dr. James

T. Arscott, president of the society, in recognition of his continuing efforts to preserve and celebrate the Welsh heritage of Carbondale and of the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys.

Dr. Powell is of Welsh ancestry, and is a direct descendent of the Welsh bard (poet) Athenydd, who resided in Scranton at the turn of the last century.

A life-long resident of the Carbondale area, in 2004 Dr. Powell collaborated with Joseph Pascoe

and Barbara Campbell to organize and host what became an annual event, a St. David's Day dinner in Carbondale.

He has been the president of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum for over 35 years, and is a member of the Maplewood Cemetery Association, the St. David's Society of Lackawanna County, and the Route 6 Heritage Group.

He has also been a director of

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POWELL

From Page A1

the Carbondale Public Library for over 30 years, and is currently writing a series of books about the D & H Gravity Railroad.

Prior to his retirement, Dr. Powell taught at Penn State University, the State University of New York, Brooklyn College, and Susquehanna University.

Celebrating and raising awareness of Welsh culture has been of particular interest to Dr. Powell not only because it is a part of his family's heritage but also because the Welsh played such an important role in the development of the city of Carbondale and in all of the Lackawanna Valley. The first Welsh settlers to Carbondale arrived at the behest of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company over 180 years ago.

Dr. Powell explained, "In the 1830's, there was virtually nothing here, just the wilderness and the natural resources. The D & H had resources they needed to get to market, and they quickly realized they needed experts to make it happen. So they brought 90 Welsh families over to work on the



Dr. Powell says a few words after receiving the prestigious President's Award. SUBMITTED PHOTO

railroads and in the mines as shaft sinkers."

The Welsh were expert miners in their homeland of Wales, and they had the skills necessary to create the large vertical shafts of the mines, which required a high level of expertise to construct lest they collapse and bury the miners under tons of rock and earth.

"The Welsh miners were added to a very rudimentary community, which is what Carbondale was at that time, so in a sense, they really became the community. The D & H didn't just recruit miners, they brought entire families over. Within a few years of their arrival,

there were three Welsh churches in Carbondale," said Dr. Powell.

The Welsh built their homes primarily on the hill near South Main St., and the Welshmen were hired as "contract miners" by the various mining companies to do the most skilled jobs, including setting the fuses for the dynamite. The Welsh, in turn, hired laborers from among the newer immigrants, usually men from Ireland and Eastern Europe, to do the unskilled manual labor.

Welsh culture became such an integral part of the fabric of life in Carbondale that many people don't recognize it as an ethnic heritage in its own right. Dr. Powell relates, "During the first couple of years when we had the St. David's Day dinners, a lot of older folks were there with tears in their eyes. It meant so much to them that their Welsh heritage was being recognized, because the Welsh were so much a part of the mainstream of life here that they became, in a sense, invisible. It was very touching to see the appreciation these people had for what we were doing."

The St. David's Day dinner committee in Carbondale hosts a dinner every year on March 1, the day set aside to honor the patron saint of Wales. Leek soup and other Welsh foods are served, traditional Welsh hymns are sung by the St. David's Male Chorus, and daffodils and leeks (traditional symbols of Wales) grace the tables at the dinner.

"The dinners always seem to take on a cozy, family-like quality whenever they are held. They are actually sort of formal events, but they have a relaxed quality to them that makes them very special. Even at Genetti's, the room was friendly and relaxed, something which is very characteristic of the Welsh," said Dr. Powell.

The Carbondale group is involved in events held in the city throughout the year, including a Welsh tea held at Trinity Episcopal Church during Pioneer Nights.

"We host an afternoon tea, with fancy teapots and tea cups, Welsh cookies, and nice linens in a tent in the courtyard at the church in order to promote Welsh culture. It's a positively beautiful event," offered Dr. Powell.

The goal of this and other events, according to Dr.

Powell, is to ensure that the community is aware of its Welsh heritage.

Carbondale mayor Justin Taylor also recognized Dr. Powell's fidelity and commitment to honoring and preserving the Welsh culture in Carbondale by issuing a proclamation naming March 1, 2014 as Dr. S. Robert Powell Day. The proclamation asked that all citizens recognize and honor both the day

and Dr. Powell, as our forefathers would want and expect of us, for years to come. Sage advice, indeed, from the mayor in regard to a man who has dedicated himself to the preservation of the history, tradition, architecture, artifacts, and heritage in the city of Carbondale. It is an honor to have Dr. Powell in our midst, preserving and explaining the past for the generations to come.

Saint David's Day Dinner, at Genetti's, March 1, 2014

Julie and Wendy were there, and Julie took several photos before the dinner began.

From Julie Esty:

"Tonight the Dearly Departed Players extend hugs, handshakes and heartfelt congratulations to our own S. Robert Powell. Robert was honored tonight by the St. David's Society of Lackawanna County and the city of Carbondale for his devotion to preserving Welsh history. Today, March 2, 2014 is Dr. S. Robert Powell day in Carbondale. Congratulations Robert -- we love you!!!!"

All of the other photos presented here were taken by Hank Loftus.

The Saint David's Male Chorus under the direction of Mrs. Fran Justin performed at the dinner. Many traditional Welsh hymns and songs, including one of my favorites: "We'll Keep a Welcome." In announcing the song, Mrs. Justin said: "The next work on the program is one of Dr. Powell's favorites, "We'll Keep a Welcome." She then extended her hand in my direction, across the room, is a very expansive and beautiful gesture. In addition to the Welsh songs and hymns, the Chorus also sang a medley of songs from *My Fair Lady*, including the very beautiful "On the Street Where You Live."

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Mayor Justin Taylor, Cindy Klenk, Michele Bannon, and Laure Carlo: four of my City Hall buddies. I was very touched and pleased that they were at the dinner. I sent all of them copies of this wonderful photo by Hank Loftus.

S. Robert Powell <srp18407@gmail.com>

Mar 5

to Justin, Michele, Carbondale, begreen1114

03-05-2014

Justin, Michele, Laure, Cindy:

Thanks again for your emotional, intellectual, psychological and civic support on Saturday night at the Saint David's Day dinner at Genetti's.

To be awarded the President's Award there meant a lot to me in a hundred different ways, but what really made it extra special for me was the fact that the four of you were there.

Attached is a great photo of the four of you that evening that was taken by Hank Loftus. <museum1@ptd.net>

Sincerely,

SRP

Thank you Robert for the invitation for a wonderful acknowledgement of an amazing man who, in my world is always there to lend a hand and support community and cultural events. What an honor, and well deserved!!!!!!

Best always,
Cindy

From Justin Taylor:

I'm sure I can speak for ALL of the Carbondale contingent that was present on Saturday night when I say it was a true pleasure to see such an honor bestowed on such an honorable gentleman!

Thanks for all that you do to make Carbondale GREAT, Dr. Powell!!!

A splendid evening in every way. How proud my Welsh ancestors would be of SRP! I made it a point to mention the names of James and Frances (Davies) Reese on two occasions in my remarks.

Many people have congratulated me for this honor, all of them having seen and read the article on page one of the *Carbondale News* about the honor.